

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bolivia

SUBJECT Government Success in Defeating Lechin's Activities At Catavi

PLACE ACQUIRE

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- B-2 1. Mine labor agitator Juan Lechin stated to source after his return to La Paz on 23 April that the major defeat he suffered at Catavi was caused when the Bolivian government bought off Cesar Toranzos and Nelson Capellino and sent them to Catavi to undermine his efforts. The miners refused to respond to his pleas for drastic action against the company and instead followed the exhortations of Toranzos and Capellino to continue to work.
2. Lechin was extremely depressed by this set-back and indicated that he might resign his position as head of the Federacion Sindical de Trabajadores Mineros de Bolivia (FSTMB).
- E-1 3. [REDACTED] confirm Lechin's statement that Toranzos and Capellino are receiving payment from the government, and agree that his defeat at Catavi was the result of careful planning by the government.
- B-2 4. In view of the known plans of the Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR), the Partido Obrero Revolucionario (POR) and the Partido Izquierda Revolucionario (PIR) to unite their efforts and cause serious civil disturbances, spearheaded by labor agitation, the government has taken all means possible to curtail Lechin's influence and prestige.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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